

# REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR THROUGH GRADE 3 ENDORSEMENT

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

ALL TEACHERS SERVING CHILDREN BIRTH THROUGH KINDERGARTEN MUST HAVE A PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATE, STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATE, OR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT BY JULY 1, 2012.

An individual who holds the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Cross-Categorical, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Retardation, Orthopedic/Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

### ➤ PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT

The Provisional Early Childhood Education endorsement is valid for three years and shall not be renewed or extended.

Requirements for the Provisional Early Childhood Education endorsement are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See Application for Certification)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic).
4. A valid Arizona **Elementary** or **Special Education** teaching certificate.
5. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education Exam  
**One of the following:**
  - A. A passing score on the AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) exam.
  - B. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report. Test scores older than 10 years WILL NOT be accepted.

### ➤ FULL EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT

The full Early Childhood endorsement shall be automatically renewed with the certificate on which it is posted.

Requirements for the full Early Childhood endorsement are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See Application for Certification)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic).
4. A valid Arizona **Elementary** or **Special Education** teaching certificate.
5. Option A or B or C or D:  
**Option A:**
  1. Twenty-one semester hours of early childhood education courses to include all of the following areas of study: (1) Foundations of early childhood education; (2) Child guidance and classroom management; (3) Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children; (4) Child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition; (5) Child, family, cultural and community relationships; (6) Developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts; (7) Early language and literacy development; (8) Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children.
  2. A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum including:
    - a. 4 semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by a District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience. - **AND** -
    - b. 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by a District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying teaching experience.
  3. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education Exam  
**One of the following:**
    - A. A passing score on the AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) exam.
    - B. A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#101) exam.
    - C. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report. Test scores older than 10 years WILL NOT be accepted.
    - D. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.

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**Option B:**

1. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.

**One of the following:**

- A. A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (#93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
- B. A passing score on a comparable Professional Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report. Test scores older than 10 years WILL NOT be accepted.
- C. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.
- D. Three (3) years of full-time teaching, PreK-12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.

2. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.

**One of the following:**

- A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood Education (#36) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
- B. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report. Test scores older than 10 years WILL NOT be accepted.
- C. A valid, comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.

3. A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum including:

- a. 4 semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by the District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience. - **AND** -
- b. 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying teaching experience.

**Option C:**

1. Three (3) years of full-time teaching early childhood education, birth through grade 3. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) signed by a District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify experience; -**AND**-
2. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.

**One of the following:**

- A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood Education (#36) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
- B. A passing score on a comparable Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report. Test scores older than 10 years WILL NOT be accepted.
- C. A current certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.